

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A portable terminal that ~~combines~~ is operable to combine a background image for a background and a captured image ~~that is captured~~, said portable terminal comprising:

a background image acquiring section operable to acquire the background image;
a captured image acquiring section operable to acquire the captured image;
a mask information acquiring section operable to acquire mask information in
which a plurality of areas for combining the captured image are designated; in response to an instruction of a user; and

an image combining section operable to combine the captured image ~~acquired by the captured image acquiring section and the background image acquired by the background image acquiring section~~ in the area plurality of areas designated by the mask information ~~acquired by the mask information acquiring section~~,

wherein an order ~~for combining the captured image~~ of the plurality of areas is predetermined ~~for the plurality of areas~~ to cause each of the plurality of areas to interrelate with one another, and

the image combining section ~~combines~~ is further operable to combine the captured image in the plurality of areas sequentially according to the predetermined order.

22. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 21, wherein the image combining section ~~changes~~ is further operable to change the order of the plurality of areas in which the captured image is to be combined; in response to an instruction of a user.

23. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 21; further comprising a background image creating section operable to create the background image by displaying a captured image acquired by the captured image acquiring section as a moving image while displaying ~~an area~~ one of the plurality of areas designated by the

mask information ~~acquired by the mask information acquiring section~~, and entering the captured image.

24. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 23,

wherein the background image creating section ~~links~~ is further operable to link the created background image with the mask information ~~that has been used when~~ creating the background image, and

when the background image is linked with the mask information, the mask information acquiring section ~~acquires~~ is further operable to acquire the linked mask information.

25. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising:

an intermediate information creating section operable to generate intermediate information showing a halfway state in image-combining generated by the image combining section, and

an intermediate information transmitting section operable to transmit the intermediate information created by the intermediate information generating section to an external device.

26. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 25, wherein the intermediate information creating section ~~creates~~ is further operable to create the intermediate information such that the intermediate information includes unused area information showing an area of the plurality of areas in which ~~a~~ the captured image is not yet combined.

27. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 26,

wherein when the intermediate information is transmitted from an external device, which is not in its own terminal, then the image combining section ~~combines~~ is further operable to combine a captured image acquired by the captured image acquiring

section in an area of the plurality of areas designated by the unused area information included in the intermediate information.

28. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 21,
wherein the image combining section ~~combines~~ is further operable to combine the captured image acquired by the captured image acquiring section such that the captured image is displayed as a moving image in ~~the area~~ one of the plurality of areas.

29. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 28,
wherein, in response to an instruction of a user, the image combining section ~~enters~~ is further operable to enter the captured image displayed as a moving image and ~~combines~~ is further operable to combine the background image and the captured image ~~that is determined~~.

30. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 21,
wherein the background image is linked with the mask information, and
the mask information acquiring section ~~acquires~~ is further operable to acquire mask information that is linked with the background image.

31. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a background image storing portion operable to store at least one of ~~the a~~ plurality of background images,
wherein the background image acquiring section ~~acquires~~ is further operable to acquire the background image from ~~the a~~ background image storing portion.

32. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a camera portion operable to capture an image,
wherein the background image acquiring section ~~acquires~~ is further operable to acquire an image captured by the camera portion as the background image.

33. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a communication portion operable to communicate with an external device, wherein the background image acquiring section ~~acquires~~ is further operable to acquire the background image from an external device via the communication portion.

34. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a camera portion operable to capture an image, wherein the captured image acquiring section ~~acquires~~ is further operable to acquire an image captured by the camera portion as the captured image.

35. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a communication portion operable to communicate with an external device, wherein the captured image acquiring section ~~acquires~~ is further operable to acquire the captured image from an external device via the communication portion.

36. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a mask information storing portion operable to store at least one ~~of the mask information images~~ image,

wherein the mask information acquiring section ~~acquires~~ is further operable to acquire the mask information from the mask information storing portion.

37. (Currently Amended) The portable terminal according to claim 21, further comprising a communication portion operable to communicate with an external device, wherein the mask information acquiring section ~~acquires~~ is further operable to acquire the mask information from an external device via the communication portion.

38. (Currently Amended) A method for processing, using a portable terminal, that combines a background image for a background and a captured image ~~that is captured~~, said method comprising:

~~a step of~~ acquiring the background image;

~~a step of~~ acquiring the captured image;

~~a step of~~ acquiring mask information in which a plurality of areas to be used for combining the captured image with the background image are designated in response to an instruction of a user; and

~~a step of~~ combining the captured image and the background image ~~that are~~ ~~acquired~~ in the plurality of areas ~~area~~ designated by the mask information ~~that is~~ ~~acquired~~,

wherein an order ~~for combining the captured image~~ of the plurality of areas is predetermined ~~for the plurality of areas~~ to cause each of the plurality of areas to interrelate with one another, and

~~in the step of~~ said combining the captured image and the background image, ~~the captured image is combined~~ further comprises combining the captured image in the plurality of areas sequentially according to the predetermined order.